


A notable example of  
Gods vengeance, vppon a mur-  
dering king. Written in Latine  
by Martine Cromer the writer  
of the historie of Polonia, and  
is to be founde in the xxxvii.  
page of the sayde historie as it  
was printed at Basile by Opo-  
rine in the yeare of oure Lorde  
1555. wyth Charles the Em-  
perours priuilege. Truely tran-  
slated according to the Latine.

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 Imprinted at Lon-  
don by Iohn Daye  
ouer Aldersgate.

And are to be solde ready  
stitched for a penny.

## Popiel the younger.

**A**fter the funerall solemnities of Popiel ended, his sonne of the same name, being vnder age, was with the vniforme assent of his vncles and of the nobilitie, set in possession of the kingdome, they all by othe promising him their allegiance. The gouernaunce of the young kinges person, and the administration of the common weale was committed to certayne of his vncles that were thought most meete for it. They were continually in the Court, and euer at the Princes elbow. They heard and determined causes and controuersies, and did in no point leaue the common weale vnserued, untill the kyng himselfe was hable in person to doe the publike affayres, or at least so long as hee would suffer himselfe to bee gouerned by their aduises. For when hee came to bee a stripling towards mans estate, whiche is the most slipperie and inclining age to licentiousnesse and pleasures, hee beganne by and



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by to liue after his owne fanſie, to de-  
ſpiſe the admonitions of his vncles, to  
take counſell of young fellowes of his  
owne yeares, and with ſuch youtheſ to  
uſe banquetinges and long large drink-  
ing feaſtes, to ſpend out whole nightes  
in brothelhouſes, in daunſinges, in  
playes and dalliaunce with younge wo-  
men: and then glutted with ſurfet and  
letherie, to ſleepe the moſt parte of the  
day, to neglect the common weale and  
hearing of cauſes in iudgement, & poore  
mens ſutes: hee became vnapt to any  
good actions, witteſſe, doltiſhe and bloc-  
kiſhe,, and ſo waxed contemptuous to  
all men, in ſo much as he was common-  
ly in ſcorne called Choltok: beſide that  
his diſſolute and vile conditions were  
further encreaſed in deformitie with a  
thicke beare on his head and beard, ſuch  
as commonly happeneth to vnhalt per-  
ſons. His vncles with the reſt of the no-  
bilitie conſulted together how this diſſo-  
lute life and desperate licenciousneſſe of  
their Prince might bee reformed. They  
provided him a wife, a very beautifull  
mayde, the daughter of a Prince of  
Ducheland. And it ſeemed to them like-

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ly that shee a couetous and ambitious  
woman, would haue reduced her hus-  
bandes life to better temper from prodi-  
galitie, and would haue shaken from  
the sluggish dull beast his drowsinesse.  
But it happened otherwise. For hee  
both abated nothing of his former disor-  
ders and wickednesse: and such faultes  
as he before was free from, he now lear-  
ned of his wife and added them to his o-  
ther leudenesse. For both hee became  
more couetous, and solde iudgements,  
honours and offices: and where he could  
not stablish his kingdome by vertue &  
worthinesse, knowing himselfe so guiltie  
of dayly enormities, hee laboured to at-  
chieue it by pride and crueltie, and coue-  
ted to be feared of his subiectes, when  
hee listed not to deserue to be beloued.  
And all this hee did by prouocation of his  
wife, and shee taking the doing and pro-  
fite into her owne hand. Shee hauing  
once tasted the sweetnesse of dominion  
and gayne, and despising the base hart of  
her husbande, had by her womanishe  
craftines conueyed the whole gover-  
naunce to her selfe. And specially when  
shee hauing borne hym two sonnes,



Lechus, and Popiclus, was once become a Queene mother, she helde the wanton weake hart of her husband false bounde in awe of her loue, and so perswaded her selfe to make her authoritie in Poleland to stand firme and fast for euer.

One onely impediment stood in her way, namely, the fauour and credite of the kings vncles among the commonaltie, which they had attained by bprightnesse of life, grauitie, and wisdom. Them she feared: them (for their sometime gentle admonitions, sometime free and playne rebukinges) she deadly hated: Their very secret conscience she stood in dread of. And therefore she practised as much as she could possibly, with fained quarels to bring the in suspicion and hatred. She perswaded the king that while they were alieue and in safetie, his crowne should neuer sit assuredly and fast on his head. And if he mynded to keepe it himselfe and leaue it to his children, he must needes dispatch his vncles out of the way. If he himselfe had not the courage to doe such an acte, she bade him commit it to her to compass

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passe, saying, that though they passed  
her in armour and true force, yet shee  
was better furnished then they w<sup>th</sup>  
subtile inuentions. Shee promised to  
bring it about without any offence, yea  
or any suspicion of the people. W<sup>th</sup>  
which her perswasions shee easely drew  
to the worse part the feeble and fearfull  
hart of her husband. Thus they entred  
into deuise for the murdering of hys  
Uncles. The king fayned himselfe to be  
greuously and dangerously sicke. Hys  
wife caused his vncles (whome shee had  
appointed to the slaughter) to be sent for  
in the kyngs name. They came in hast,  
& in great heavyness stoode about the sick  
kyng, & comforted him. He w<sup>th</sup> gro-  
rying fained himself to be very sore sick:  
hee tolde them that it was reueled to  
him from the Gods that the ende of hys  
life was at hand: he againe and againe  
committed his wife and poore orpheline  
childzen to their trust and tuition.

All the Court was filled with noyse  
of the Queenes womanthe howling,  
sobbing, and lamentations: preparation  
was made for the funerals by the kings  
owne commaundement. The day thus  
A. b. spent



spent, when it drew toward sunne setting, the kyng as one even presently ready to dye, mynding to take his laste leaue of his Uncles, spake to euery of them flatteringly by his name, and in token of his loue & good will toward them all, he commaunded to be brought a poisoned cup of drinke which he had prepared for the same purpose. He fained himselfe to drinke to them, but he onely blew away a litle of the frothe in the midst, and scarcely touched the drinke with the uttermost parte of his lippes. When they had all dronke and pledged him in order one after an other, he fained himselfe to bee heauy and disposed to sleepe, and that he woulde fayne take some rest. They reuerently tooke their leaue of the king and departed. The poyson once conceiued in their stomakes possessed their vitall partes, and forthwith they fell distraught of their wits, and raging with great torment fel down and dyed.

The Quene being immediatly informed thereof by her espialles, commaunded the dead carcasses of the noble men to be thowen abroad vnburyed. Shee  
caused

caused it to be published by proclamation, that they had conspired against the life of y<sup>e</sup> king their kinsman & frende, which had so well deserued of them, and that they were therefore by the euident vengeance of the Gods stricken with sodaine death. Although the blacke spottes of their bodies, and their bowels bursting and gushed out of their bellies gaue manifest p<sup>ro</sup>ofe of poyson, yet for feare of the tyrant (which now no more fained any sicknesse or feare of death) no man durst openly lament so vnworthy deathes of the good noble men.

But the maiestie of God suffereth not such horrible factes to bee long unpunished. For out of the putrified carcases came Mattes of monstrous bignesse, which pursued through fire and water, which way soeuer he fled, the vnnaturall murderer, with his vile wife, and his children. No defenses of doores and stoppes auayled him, nor no succour of his garde and sernautes endeouors to driue them away. At the last, all persons flying from him, his sonnes were first deuoured, and then his wife, and last of all himself vnhappy wretch  
was

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was with painefull slow death misera-  
bly consumed in the Castell of Crus-  
wik. And so his owne fathers curse fell  
not in vayne vppon hym. This  
happened about the yeaere of  
Christ eight hundzed  
twentye and  
three.

# Pompilius or Popiel.

The same historie reported also by Munster in the 895. page of his Cosmographie in Latine. Wherein he not so largely declareth the treason, but more amply expresseth the vengeance of God in punishing thereof.



Being left by his father withlitt age, his Uncles gouerned the kingdome, till he came to full age and married a wife. Afterwarde while he was sitting at banquet, filled with wine, bedecked with garlandes, smeared with ointmentes, all dissolute with surfet and ryot, he was set vpon by exceeding great Wile that came out of the dead carcasses of his Uncles, whome he and his wife had murdered by poison. They with furious eger bytting assailed at his banquet the tyrant and hys wyfe and chylzen, his garbe labouring in  
dayne



bayne to drive them away, because  
when the force and succour of men was  
tyred, the Wyse continued day & nyght  
unwearied. They made great rounde  
fiers, and within the compasse thereof  
they set Pompilius, and his wife and  
sonnes: but the Wyse ranne through the  
fire and ceased not to gnaw the unnatu-  
rall murderer. At length they assayed an  
other element. They conveyed Pompe-  
lius the murderer of his Uncles, wyth  
his wife and children in shippes into the  
middest of a great lake: but the wyse un-  
ceasingly folowed them, & ate through  
the boordes of the shippes, in so much  
that the water coming in at the holcs,  
they were in danger of sinking, wherefore  
the Mariners fearing to be drowned, co-  
veyed the shippes to land, from whence  
an other company of wyse ioyned wyth  
the first, and more fiercely assayled him.  
They that defended him seing this, and  
acknowledging it to be the vengeance  
of God fled away.

Pompilius destitute of his suc-  
cours, withdrew hymselfe into an hye  
tower in Cruswic, whether the Wyse  
furi-

**furiouſly ronne and clymed vp , and  
conſumed and deuoured his two ſonnes,  
and hys wyfe, and wicked Pompe-  
lius himſelfe. Beholde there is  
no power nor counſell a-  
gainſt the Lorde.**

